



STATE SENATOR

WAYNE KUIPERS

SERVING THE 30TH SENATE DISTRICT*District Update...*

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CONTACT
INFORMATION**ADDRESS:**

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

TELEPHONE:

Toll-Free 877-KUIPERS

FAX:

(517) 373-2751

E-MAIL:

senwkuipers@senate.
michigan.gov

WEB SITE:

www.senate.michigan.gov
/gop/senator/kuipers

SENATOR KUIPERS' ABSTINENCE
EDUCATION BILLS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

The Governor signed two bills this week that give parents a larger role in how public schools teach sex education. The abstinence-education package, Senate Bills 943 and 944, requires students be taught about the responsibility of being a parent, describe adoption as a positive option for unplanned pregnancies and encourage abstinence until marriage. The bills also require teaching that abstinence is the only 100-percent effective way to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.



Senator Kuipers' legislation creates health-education advisory panels formed by local school boards. At least half of the members on the panels have to be parents of students who attend the school districts. This legislation drew strong support from the Michigan Family Forum, Citizens for Traditional Values, and the Michigan Catholic Conference. After negotiations with the governor's office and the Michigan Department of Education, the administration and various educational associations support this law as well. President George W. Bush proposed more funding for abstinence programs in his State of the Union address earlier this year.

Sen. Kuipers poses with Gov. Granholm at a ceremony where she signed his bill promoting abstinence education. The measure requires students be taught about the responsibility of being a parent, as well as describe adoption as a positive option for unplanned pregnancies and encourage abstinence until marriage.

Receive E-Legislative Updates

If you would like to receive periodic legislative updates via email, please send a short note to senwkuipers@senate.mi.gov. Electronic mail is an inexpensive and convenient method to transmit information to interested citizens.

SENATOR KUIPERS PICKS UP AWARDS

The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan presented Senator Kuipers with its annual *Distinguished Service Award*. The association said the award is approved by its board and given to a leader who has made significant contributions to the well-being and vitality of the independent, nonprofit sector of our state's outstanding higher-educational system.

Additionally, the senator accepted the **2004 Distinguished Service Award** from the **Michigan Business and Professional Association** and the **Michigan Food and Beverage Association**. He was honored for his continued support of small business in Michigan

SENATE CRACKS DOWN ON SWEEPSTAKES FRAUD

The Senate recently passed legislation that would regulate sweepstakes solicitations and awarding of prizes. The legislation creates the Prize and Sweepstakes Regulation Act to regulate the notification and awarding of prizes and to establish penalties for violations of this act.

A May 1998 study conducted jointly by the American Association for Retired Persons and the Michigan attorney general, called "Senior Sting," monitored the mail of senior citizens showing them to be the most heavily targeted. In a 30 day period, 20 percent of the 1,766 solicitations received by 106 households were for sweepstakes entries, compared to less than 15 percent for credit cards and other types of solicitations.

The bill is currently being considered by the House of Representatives.



Sen. Wayne Kuipers accepted the 2004 Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Business and Professional Association and the Michigan Food and Beverage Association. The organizations together total 21,000 members who employ more than 160,000.

KUIPERS' LEGISLATION COULD HELP REDUCE DRUG COSTS

Senator Kuipers recently introduced a bill that would give consumers another way to help reduce their drug costs. The proposed bill would allow Michigan consumers to receive direct rebates or discounts from drug manufacturers or distributors. An attorney general's opinion in October said such rebates or discounts can be seen as illegal kickbacks. The attorney general advised lawmakers to change and clarify the law governing such rebates since it is his opinion that the current law makes direct drug manufacturer or distributor rebates and discounts illegal.

Senator Kuipers and Rep. Gary Newell started looking into the issue after a Michigan consumer was denied a \$10 rebate from a pharmaceutical company. The company said its offer was void in Michigan because of the kickback provisions of state law.



SENATOR KUIPERS

Invites Public to Office Hours

Senator Kuipers has scheduled weekly office hours in the district so that residents may have the opportunity to meet with him and share their concerns or thoughts regarding state government.

The times and locations for weekly office hours will remain the same from month to month according to the following schedule:

First Monday

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

J.P.'s Coffee and Espresso Bar

57 East 8th St.

Holland

3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Cafe Ala Mode

26 East Division St.

Sparta

Spanish Speaking Office Hours

(an interpreter will be present)

6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church

195 W. Thirteenth St.

Holland

Will meet only on

11/1/04

Second Monday

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Rainbow Grill

4158 Chicago Dr. SW

Grandville

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Georgetown Charter Township Hall

1515 Baldwin

Jenison

3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Northeast Ottawa District Library

198 East St.

Coopersville

Third Friday

9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Coffee Grounds

Coffee House

41 Washington St.

Grand Haven



State Senator
WAYNE KUIPERS

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

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SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to the 2,600 residents who took the time to complete the survey which was included in the last district newsletter. Below you will find a compilation of respondents' opinions on the six important issues.

- 84% of respondents agree that Michigan should not expand casino gaming to allow video slot machines at horse racing tracks, while 16% favor expanding gaming.
- 56% of respondents agreed that charter schools should be expanded in Michigan to give working families more choice in education, while 44% did not approve of charter expansion.
- 77% of those responding support amending the bottle deposit law to include juice and water containers, while 23% of respondents are against changing this law.
- 56% of respondents do not support a mandate to require Michigan health insurers to provide the same coverage for mental health care as they do for physical health care, even if it results in higher insurance premiums, while 44% of respondents favored the mandate.
- 84% of residents agree that Michigan voters should have the opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as between a man and a woman only, while 16% of residents do not support the constitutional amendment.
- 76% of respondents would support a constitutional amendment barring racial preferences in affirmative action programs, while 24% would not support the constitutional amendment.

----- Clip & Mail -----

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE:

As a service, my office maintains a collection of useful publications that may be of interest to you. Requests will be mailed to you, just fill out the following form:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen's Guide to State Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Services for Seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Michigan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Booklet | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan Map | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Safety |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

MAIL TO: SENATOR WAYNE KUIPERS, P.O. BOX 30036, LANSING, MI 48909-7536